

NATIONALTM 6

AUG. No. 43

COMICS

10¢

It's ALL new!

The **BARKER**
and his
Colossal Cavalcade
of Curious
Friends!

THE BARKER



LENA



TINY TIM



MAJOR MIDGE





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

NATIONAL COMICS

THE

BARKER

HI, LOOKEE-
LOOKEE - LOOKEE!
RIGHT OVER HERE, FOLKS!
ONLY A DIME - THE TENTH
PART OF A DOLLAR TO SEE
THIS COLOSSAL CAVALCADE
OF CURIOSITIES ----

by JOE MILLARD
AND JACK COLE

LENA
FATTEST
LIVING LADY

TINY TIM
THE GEORGIA GIANT

AND
MAJOR
MIDGE
THE
MIGHTY
MIDGE

FOLLOW THE VOICE OF THE CIRCUS,
FOLKS -- THE VOICE OF THE SIDE-
SHOW BARKER, CARNIE CALAHAN,
TO THE TINSEL-AND-CANVAS WORLD
OF *Colonel Lane's*
MAMMOTH CIRCUS!

SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT AWFUL
SKULLDUGGERIES CAN LURK BEHIND
THE MASK OF CAREFREE GAVITY AND LAUGHTER!

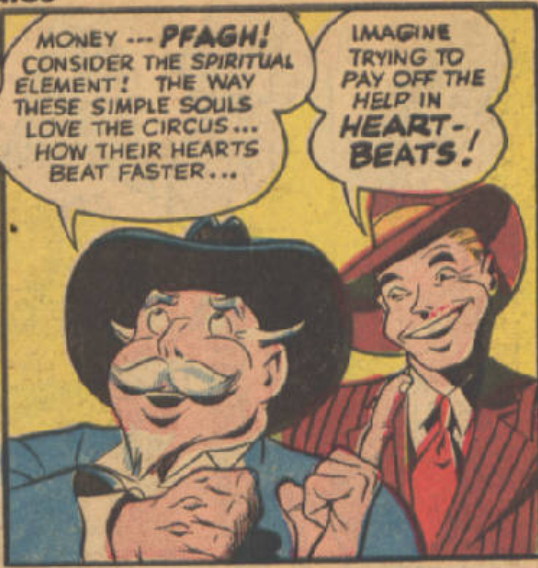




FOR
INSTANCE,
BRIGHT
AND EARLY,
ONE LOVELY
SPRING
DAY...

AHH-H... WHAT A
BEAUTIFUL DAY, MY
DEAR **CARNIE!**
AND THIS LOVELY
LITTLE COMMUNITY
OF **OATSVILLE...**

YEAH, COLONEL!...
LOOKS LIKE
TODAY'S **TAKE**
OUGHT TO
BE OKAY!



MONEY --- **PFAGH!**
CONSIDER THE SPIRITUAL
ELEMENT! THE WAY
THESE SIMPLE SOULS
LOVE THE CIRCUS...
HOW THEIR HEARTS
BEAT FASTER...

IMAGINE
TRYING TO
PAY OFF THE
HELP IN
**HEART-
BEATS!**



CARNIE CALAHAN!
YOU LACK A SOUL!
WHY, THESE
PEOPLE COULD
NO MORE LIVE
WITHOUT A
CIRCUS
THAN ---

EXCUSE ME,
**COLONEL
LANE!**...



THERE'S A
DELEGATION OF
LOCAL YOKELS
LOOKIN' FER
YOU AT THE
GATE!

SEE, MY
FRIEND?...
TO TENDER ME
A TESTIMONIAL
DINNER, NO
DOUBT!



HERE'S THE
COLONEL, BOYS!
GIVE HIM YOUR
SPIEL!

BE **SWEET**
TO THE
'SIMPLE SOULS,'
COLONEL!



AHEM! ...
AND WHAT
CAN I DO
FOR YOU
GENTLEMEN,
TODAY?

BEHAVE!!



HARUMPH!...
COME, COME,
NOW! I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

YOU WILL,
BROTHER!
SEVEN YEARS
AGO, A CROOKED
CARNIVAL OUTFIT
CAME IN AND ROBBED
THIS TOWN BLIND!
WE NEVER
FORGOT THAT...



WE'RE WARNIN'
YOU, MISTER! ONE
CROOKED TRICK
OUTA YOUR
CROWD AND
WE'LL HANG
YUH TO THE
NEAREST
TELEPHONE
POLE!

AND SMASH
EVERY PIECE
OF EQUIPMENT
ON THE
GROUNDS!

THE
IDEA!!
SPLUTTER
FUSS

THE VERY
IDEA!...
QUESTIONING
OUR HONESTY!
"STRAIGHT" LANE,
THEY CALL ME IN
SHOW BUSINESS!
--THE HONEST
OPERATOR.

OKAY!!
CALM
DOWN
BEFORE
YOU
BURST
AN
ARTERY!

WE KNOW OUR
CROWD IS CLEAN!...
THERE ISN'T A GIMMICK
OR GAFF IN THE LOT!--
BUT KEEP AN EYE
OPEN FOR OUTSIDE
CROOKS!

I'LL POST GUARDS!
JUST LET ONE CON MAN
OR DIP TRY TO WORK MY
CROWDS! I'LL HAVE HIM
STRUNG UP BY THE
TOES! I'LL--I'LL--

NOW LET'S
JUMP A FEW
MILES AWAY
TO THE
TOWN OF
**Hick
Corner...**
WHERE
COLONEL
LANE'S
RIVAL AND
WORST
ENEMY,
**Cappy
Kane,**
IS
SHOWING....



"PRESS" HARDT, CAPPY KANE'S
PUBLICITY AGENT, ALSO SERVES AS
TALENT SCOUT FOR NEW ATTRACTIONS!

ARE YOU
SURE HE'S A
GENUINE
FREAK,
PRESS?

ABSOLUTELY, BOSS!
HE'S THE CLEAR DOPE
AND NO SHOW HAS EVER
APPROACHED HIM
TO WORK!

KEEP AN EYE
ON THINGS! I'M
GOING TO FIND THIS
CLARENCE TWIDDLE
AND HIRE HIM! WE
NEED A BRAND
NEW FREAK
EXHIBIT,
ANYHOW.

GOOD
LUCK,
BOSS!

HERE'S
HIS
ADDRESS!



WHAT A BREAK! I'LL
HIRE THIS FREAK, TWIDDLE,
BEFORE THAT PHONY COLONEL
LANE HEARS ABOUT IT!...
AND WILL HE FROTH
AT THE MOUTH!!

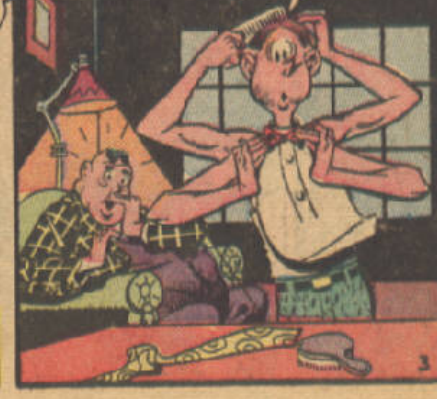
GOOD MORNING!
I'M LOOKING FOR
A MR. CLARENCE
--ER--TWIDDLE!

NOW, ISN'T
THAT A
COINCIDENCE?
I'M CLARENCE
TWIDDLE! DO
COME IN,
MR.--ER--
KANE!

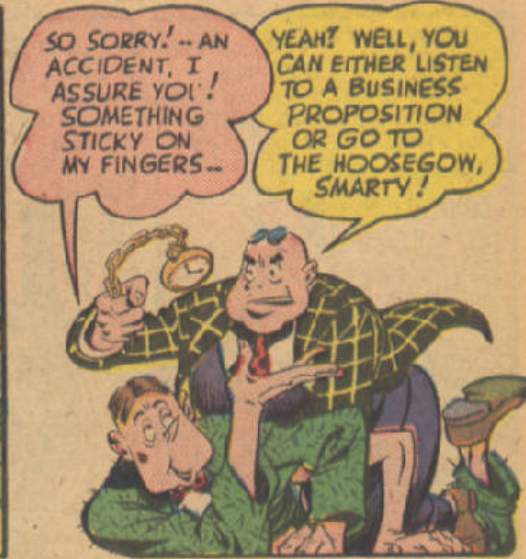
I WAS JUST
CHANGING TO
GO OUT! HAVE
A CHAIR
WHILE I
FINISH!

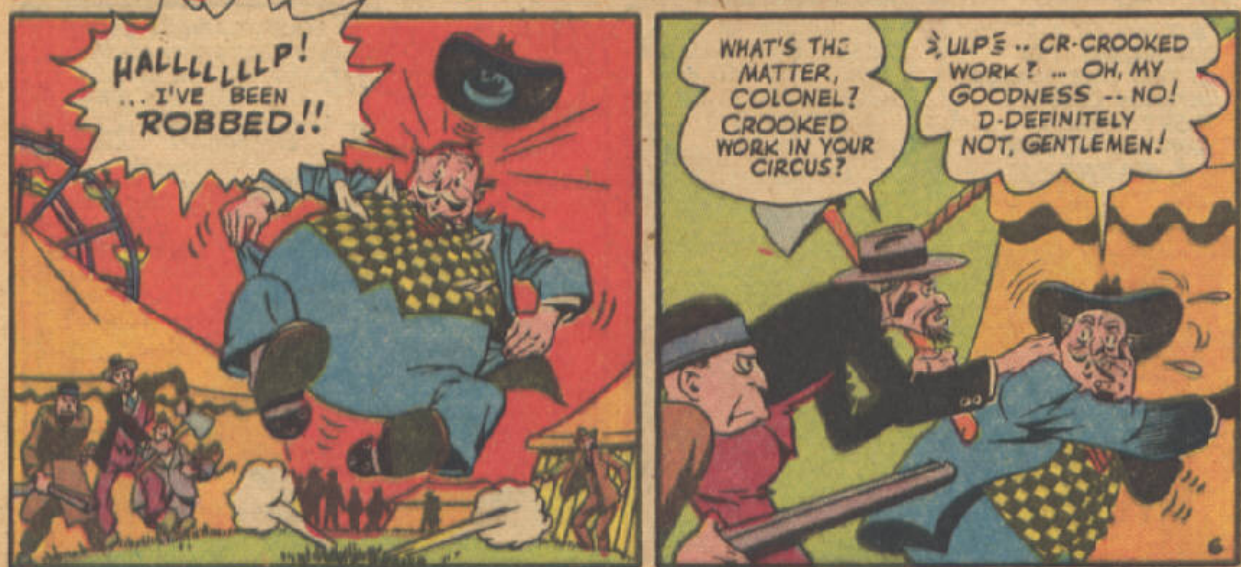
THANKS! I--
ER-- WAS
LOOKING FOR
A NEW ACT FOR
MY CIRCUS! I--
AH--HEARD YOU
WERE A LITTLE
BIT--ER--
UNUSUAL!

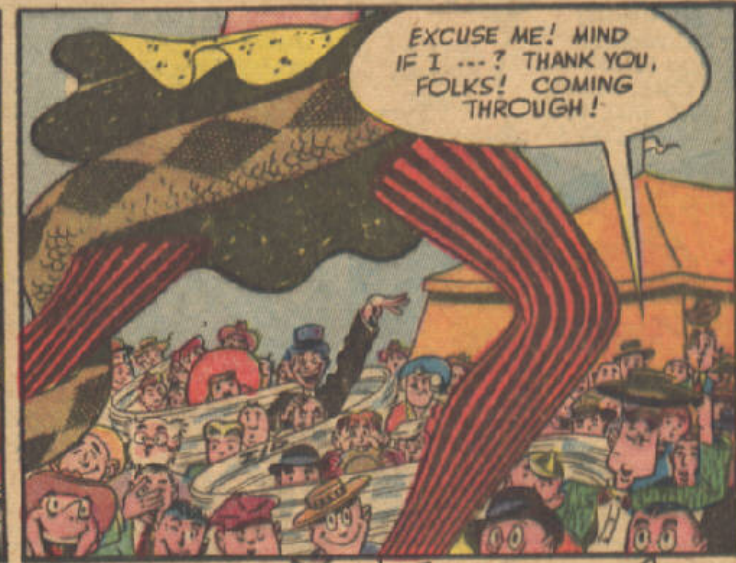
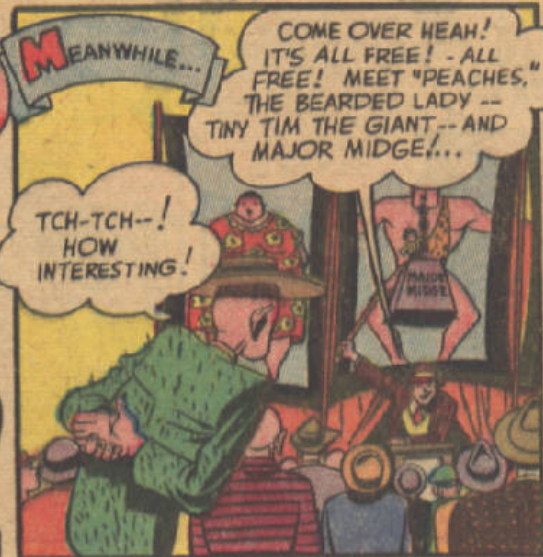
TCH-TCH! WHAT
AN ODD RUMOR! ...
I CAN'T IMAGINE
WHAT'S UNUSUAL
ABOUT ME!



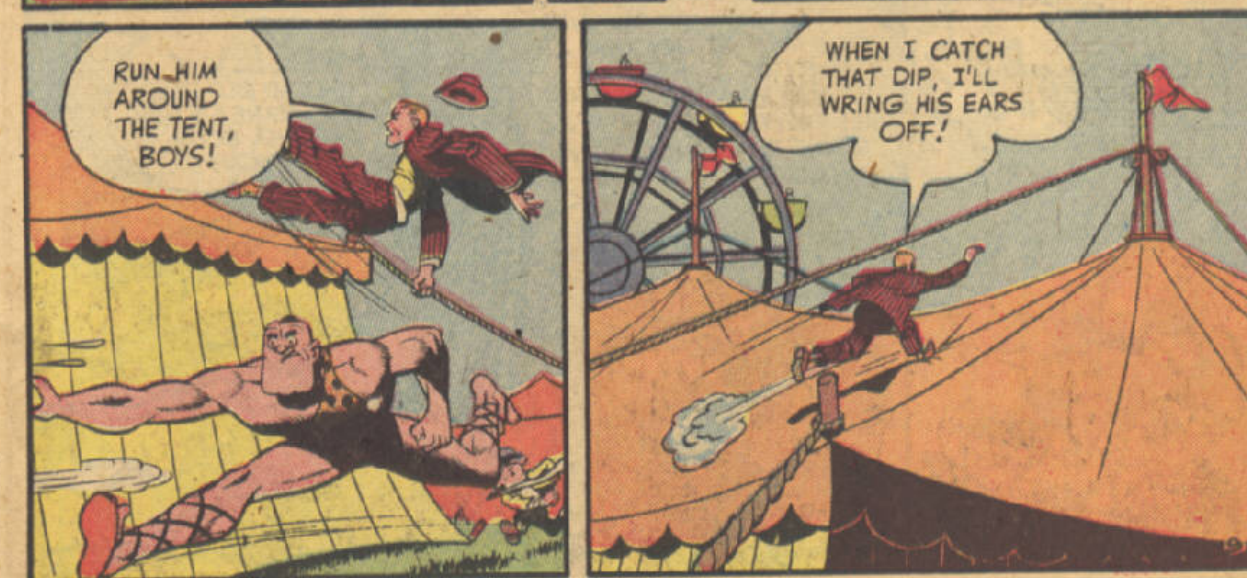
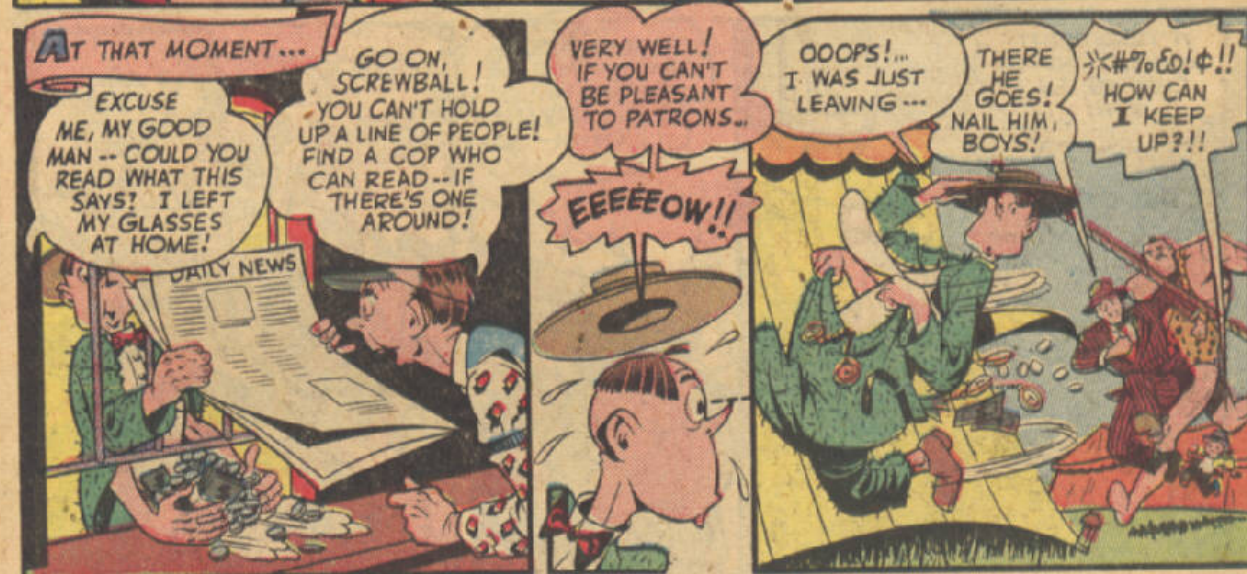
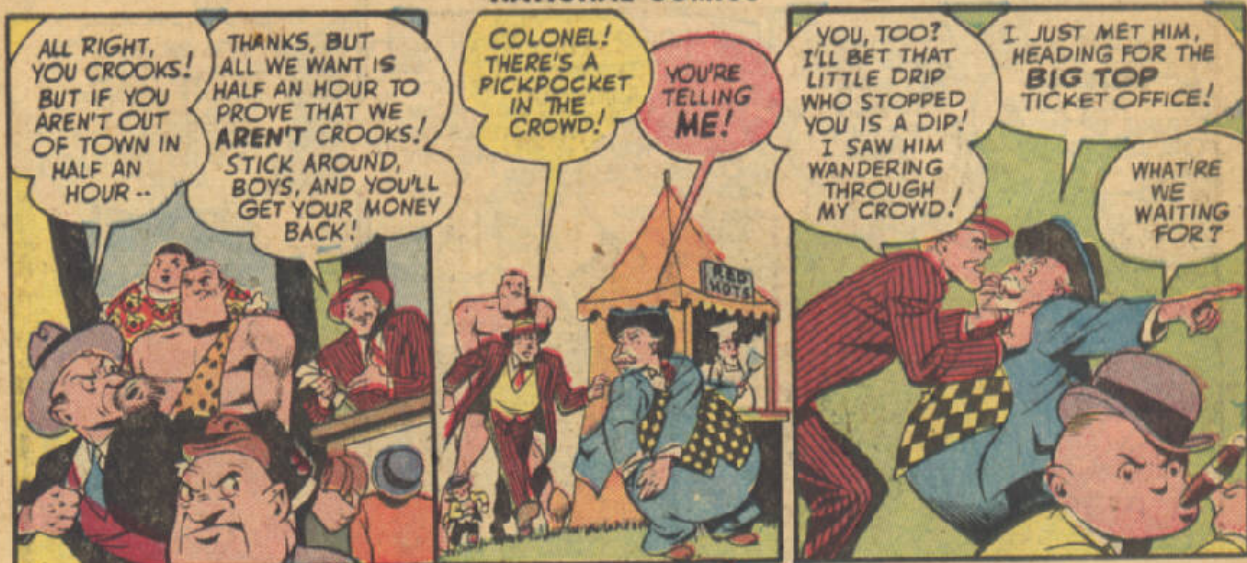




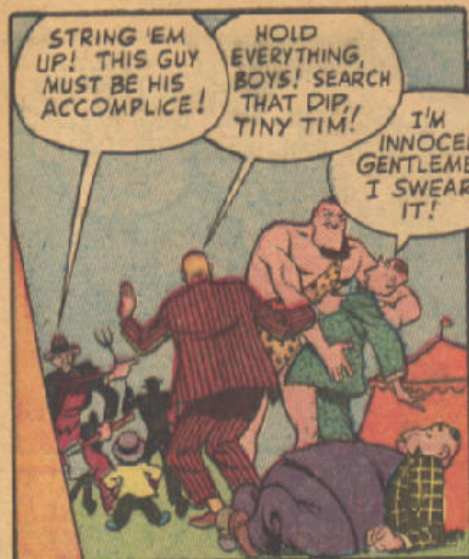












G-2



YOU ALL KNOW OF JOLINE JOY, SINGING STAR OF STAGE, SCREEN AND RADIO, AND HER SENSATIONAL TOUR OF OUR FRONT-LINE POSITIONS! BUT HERE'S SOMETHING THAT NOBODY HAS HEARD BEFORE -- NOT EVEN JOLINE HERSELF KNOWS THE WHOLE STORY! ONLY G-2 KNOWS IT, AND I KNOW IT BECAUSE G-2 AND I ARE ONE AND THE SAME!

CASE No. 17

GUNS AND GLAMOR

CAPT. DON LEASH-INTelligence

GENERAL DELANEY THINKS DON LEASH IS JUST ANOTHER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER...

CAPTAIN, YOU'RE GETTING A LUCKY ASSIGNMENT -- A LADY!

A-A-- LADY, SIR?

HE MEANS ME, CAPTAIN! ... I'M JOLINE JOY!

SHE'S GOING TO SING FOR OUR MEN TONIGHT! YOU'RE DETAILED AS HER ESCORT! GOODBYE, CAPTAIN!

...ON A NEARBY PACIFIC ISLAND ...

MY SPIES TELL OF CERTAIN JOLINE JOY, YANKEE IDOL, VISITING FRONT! MAYBE WE HER CAPTURE!

GOOD!





THE BLOW KNOCKS CAPTAIN LEASH UNCONSCIOUS! THROUGH HIS MIND RUN THE JAP COMMANDER'S WORDS:

NO READY THAT--YET!

WE NO READY THAT--YET!

NO AROUSE CAMP!

NO AROUSE CAMP!

WE NO READY THAT--YET!



DON LEASH SUDDENLY TRANSFORMS HIMSELF TO MIGHTY G-2!...



G-2 MOVES CAUTIOUSLY, LOOKING FOR A TRAP....





A TRIP-CORD!
IF A PURSUER
BUMPS INTO IT,
THE JAPS
WILL BE
WARNED!



G-2 STEALTHILY TRACES
THE CORD'S COURSE
AND ---

A JAP SENTRY!
WHEN THE CORD IS
JERKED, HE'LL CALL
HIS COMMANDER
ON THAT
FIELD
TELEPHONE!



NOW IT'S AMERICA'S TURN TO
STRANGLE A SENTRY! AFTER THAT,
THE PHONE WIRE WILL LEAD
ME WHERE
I WANT
TO GO!



ON THROUGH THE JUNGLE
STRUGGLES G-2 --- KNOWING
THAT THE WIRE IS ISOLATED
FROM TROOPS, TO KEEP IT
FROM BEING INJURED IN
BATTLE...



YOU MOST CHARMING
BAIT FOR TRAP
SET FOR YOUR
YANKEE
FRIENDS!

I WON'T HELP
BETRAY THEM --
NOT EVEN IF
YOU TORTURE
ME!



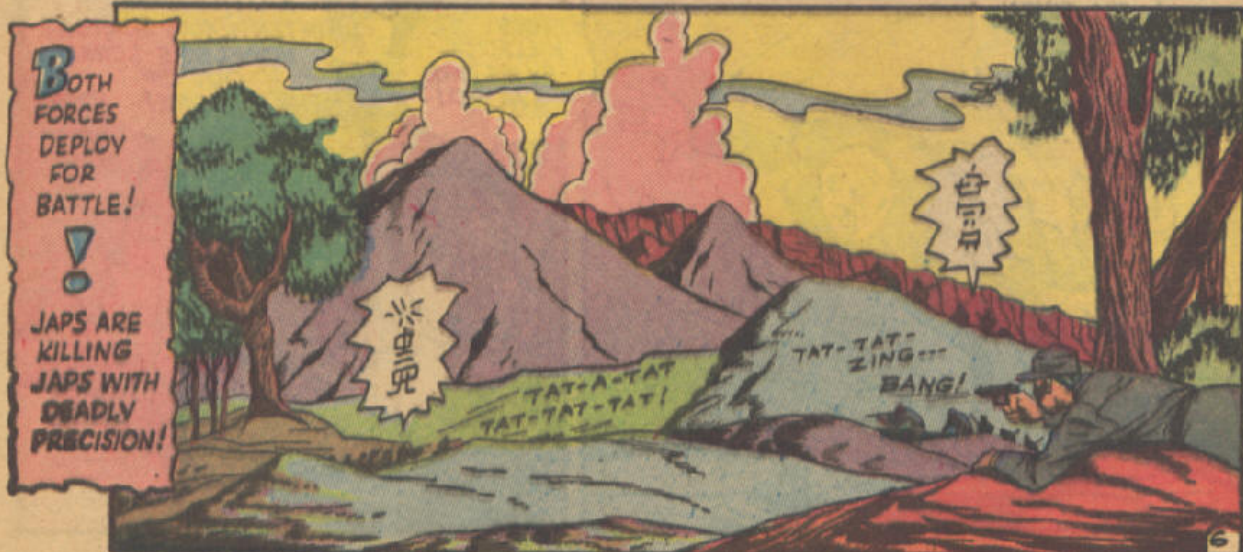
NO NEED FOR THAT!
WE LEFT YOUR CAPTAIN FRIEND
ONLY STUNNED! HE WILL AROUSE
CAMP! YOUR ADMIRERS WILL
WILL DASH TO RESCUE --
INTO OUR
AMBUSH!

SPLENDID!
THEY'LL KNOW
HOW TO
COUNTER
YOUR
SNEAK
PUNCHES!

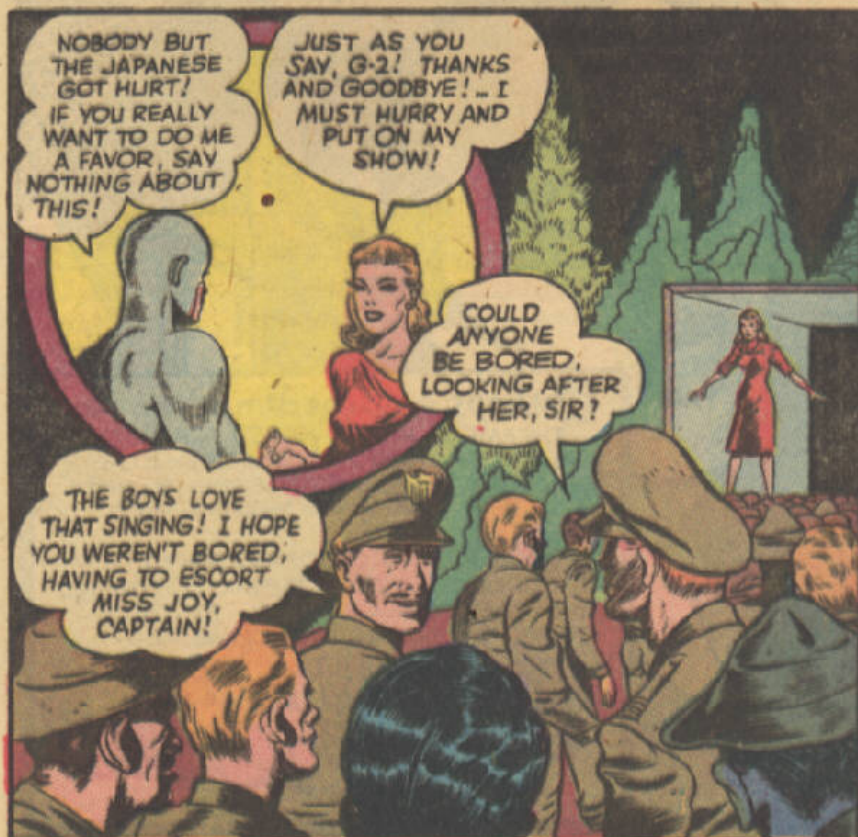


THE SNEAK PUNCH IS
JAPANESE TECHNIQUE!
BUT THE AMERICANS ARE
GOOD ENOUGH BOXERS TO
KNOW THAT IF YOU SLIP
A SNEAK PUNCH, YOU
CAN HURT THE
SNEAK PUNCHER
TWICE AS HARD!





NATIONAL COMICS



G-2 IS ONE OF THE MANY GOOD STORIES IN *National Comics*. EVERY MONTH!

NATIONAL COMICS

SALLY O'NEIL

Policewoman



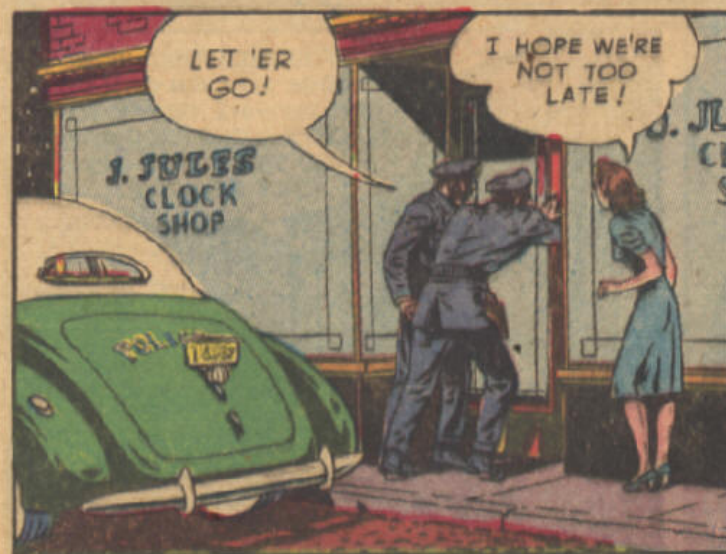
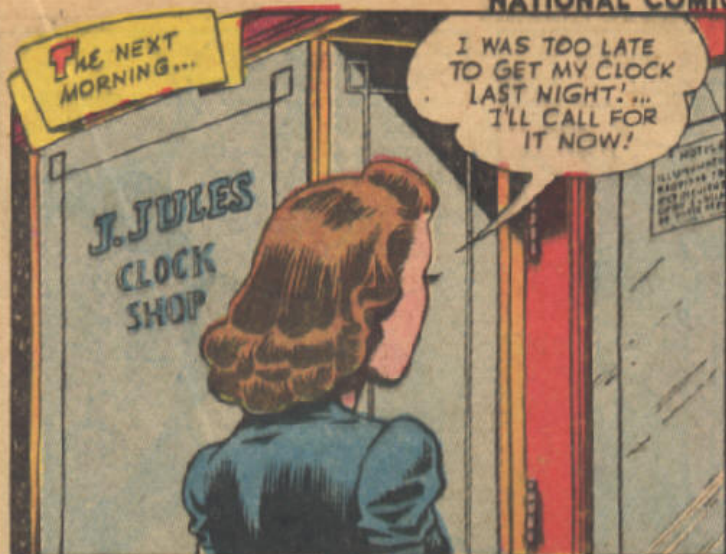
Perhaps THE HANDS OF TIME RECORDED THE FATE OF JASPER JULES! FOR WHEN SALLY O'NEIL TOOK HER ALARM CLOCK TO HIS SHOP FOR REPAIRS, SHE LITTLE REALIZED THAT, EVEN THEN, **DEATH** WAS MARKING TIME!

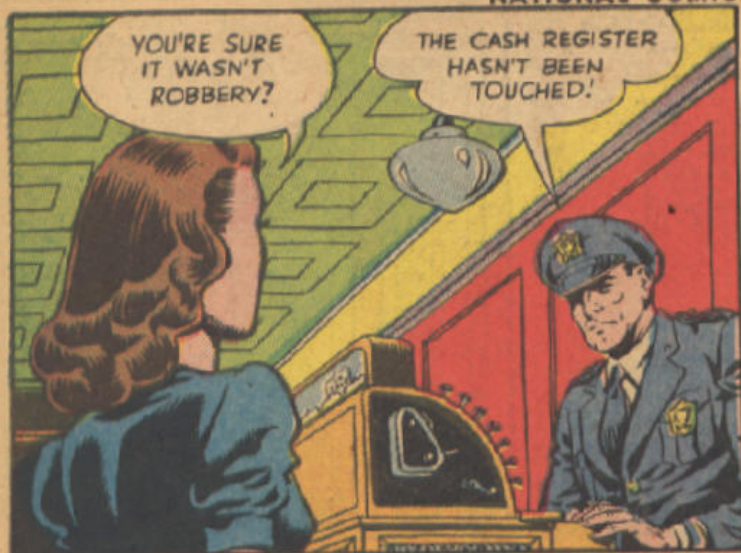
READ THIS STORY OF AN ESCAPED CONVICT ... A STRANGE "SUICIDAL" DEATH... AND A VICIOUS MURDER PLOT ... AS SALLY O'NEIL AGAIN DEALS WITH CRIME IN ---

DEATH by the CLOCK!



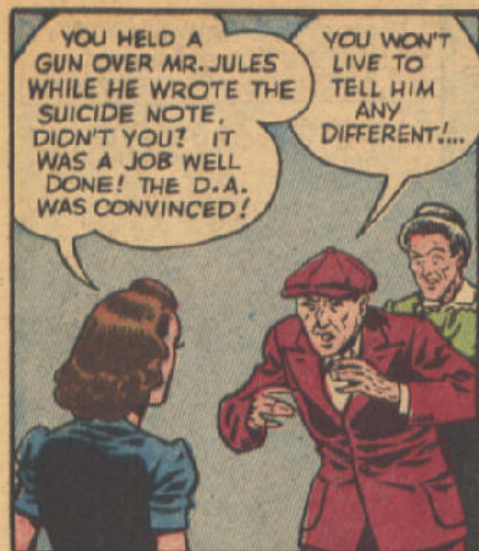














**NO JOB TOO BIG!...
NO JOB TOO SMALL!!**

**THAT'S UNCLE SAM
FOR YOU! ...**

**BUT IN DEALING WITH
THE SMALLEST OF JOBS,
HE SOMETIMES FINDS
OPENED BEFORE HIM,
THE TALE OF GIGANTIC
INJUSTICE AND CRUELTY!
FOR INSTANCE ...**

**FIRST OF THE MONTH, ON A
FOREIGN FRONT WHERE
AMERICANS ARE STATIONED...**

**GOOD OLD
PAYDAY!...
THE FIRST OF
THE MONTH.
JOE!**

**I GET AN EXTRA
KICK OUT OF IT
BECAUSE PART
OF MY PAY
GOES HOME
TO MY
MOTHER!**



**BUT AT HOME IN THE
UNITED STATES...**

**I'M MRS. ADAMS!
I KNOW HOW
BUSY UNCLE SAM
IS, AND HOW
IMPORTANT--
BUT I HOPED
THAT---**

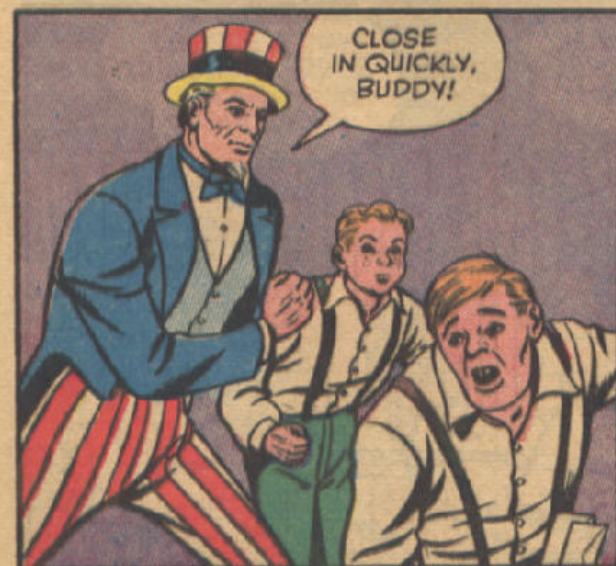
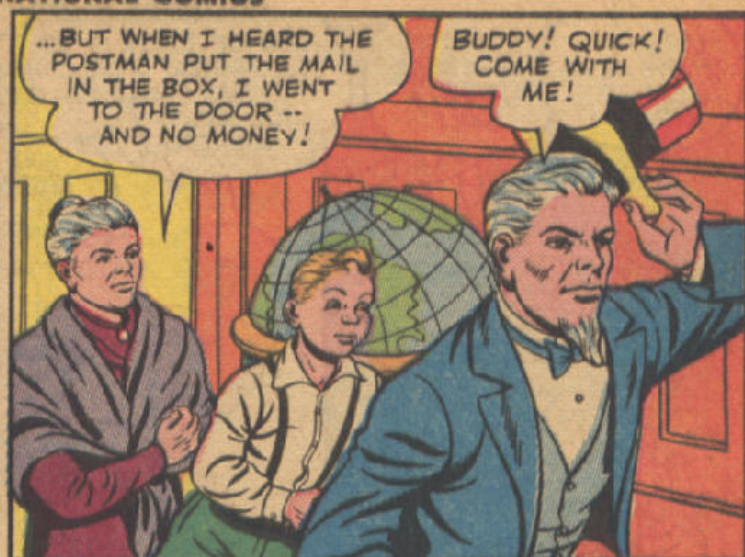
**TELL
MRS. ADAMS
TO COME IN,
BUDDY!**



**YOU'RE
THE MOTHER
OF PRIVATE
JOE ADAMS,
EH? ...
WHAT'S
THE
TROUBLE?**

**JOE'S A GOOD
BOY! HE MADE
AN ALLOTMENT
OF HIS PAY TO
SUPPORT ME --
WITH WHAT THE
GOVERNMENT
ADDS, IT COMES
TO \$50 A
MONTH!**



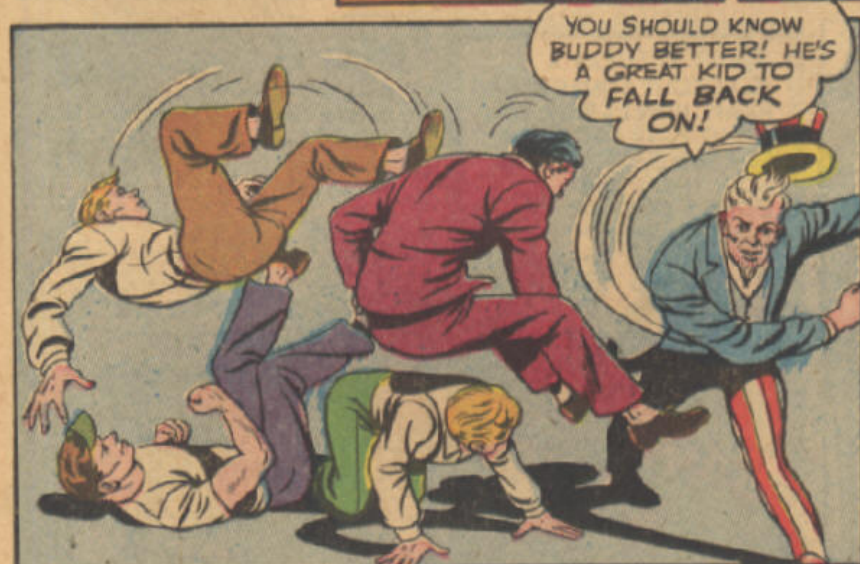


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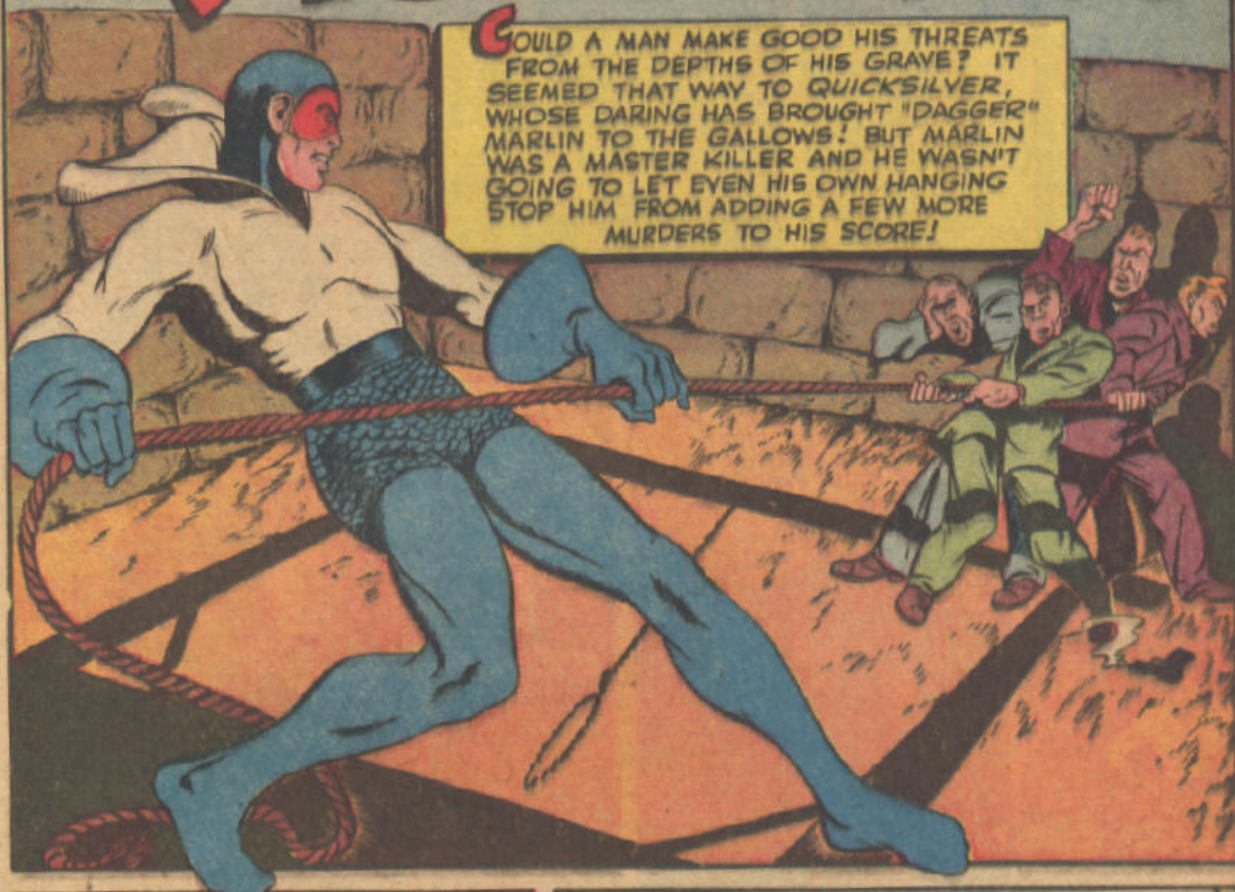








QUICKSILVER



A JURY RETURNS WITH A VERDICT IN THE CASE OF THE PEOPLE VERSUS "DAGGER" MARLIN





CONGRATULATIONS, D.A.! YOU FINALLY GOT A CONVICTION!

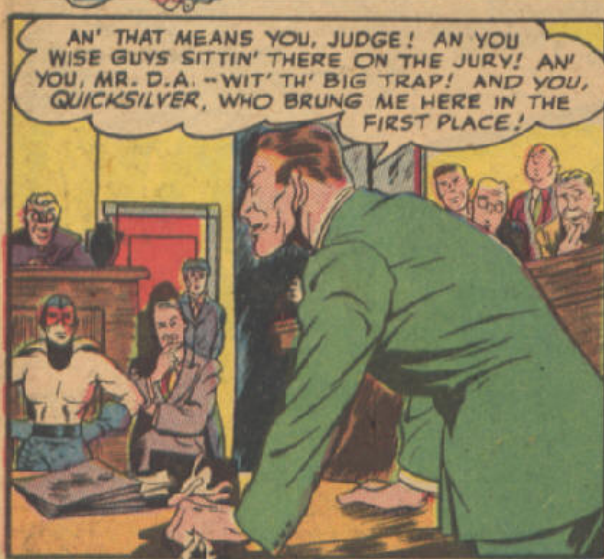
IT'S YOU WHO SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED, QUICKSILVER!... MARLIN WOULD STILL BE A FREE MAN IF YOU HADN'T NABBED HIM!



YOU'VE HAD YOUR SAY, JUDGE! NOW I'LL HAVE MINE! JUST REMEMBER THAT "DAGGER" MARLIN DON'T LET NOBODY GIT AWAY WITH NOTHIN'! I ALLUS PAY OFF IN KIND!...



HANGIN' AIN'T A NICE WAY TO DIE! IF I'M GONNA CROAK SOMEBODY, I'D RATHER DO IT GENTLE-LIKE WIT' A DAGGER OR EVEN A ROD! BUT IF I'M TO HANG, DON'T BE SURPRISED IF SOME OF YOUSE HANG TOO!



AN' THAT MEANS YOU, JUDGE! AN YOU WISE GUYS SITTING THERE ON THE JURY! AN' YOU, MR. D.A. --WIT' TH' BIG TRAP! AND YOU, QUICKSILVER, WHO BRUNG ME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!



THESE UNDERWORLD HOODLUMS CAN'T RESIST MAKING THREATS, EVEN WITH THE GALLOWS STARING THEM IN THE FACE!

YES, BUT WE'D BETTER WATCH MARLIN CLOSELY UNTIL HE'S EXECUTED!

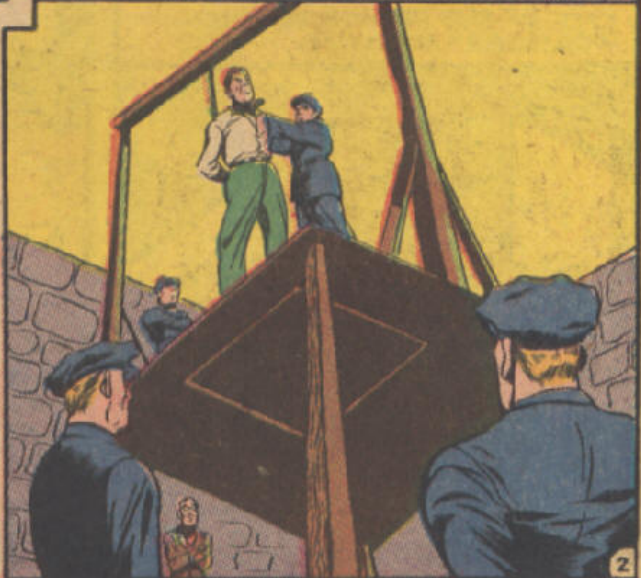
THE NOOSE FALLS OVER MARLIN'S HEAD...



TIME PASSES QUICKLY FOR A MAN ABOUT TO DIE!... TOO QUICKLY! ... AND, ONE DAWN --

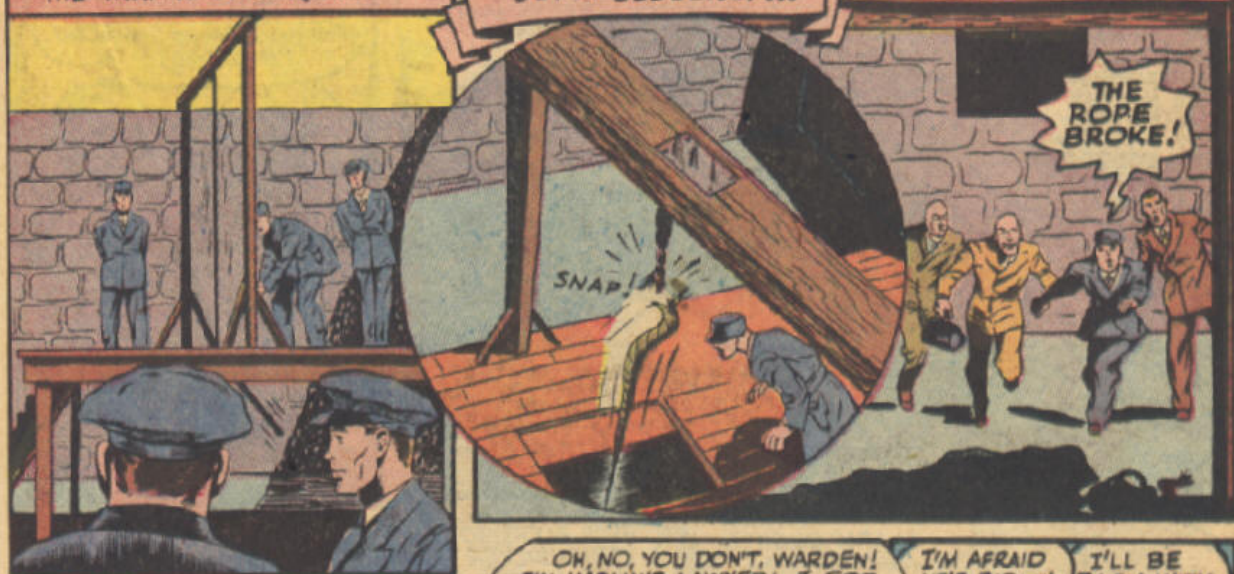
LET'S GO! IT'S TIME!

TRYIN' TO SCARE ME?



THE TRAP IS SPRUNG!...

BUT ... SUDDENLY...



HE ISN'T DEAD YET, WARDEN!

WE'LL HAVE TO FIX THE SCAFFOLD WITH A NEW ROPE AND HANG HIM AGAIN!

OH, NO, YOU DON'T, WARDEN! I'M MARLIN'S LAWYER! I GOT OFFICIAL PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE HANGING -- AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE LAW FORBIDS HANGING A MAN TWICE!

I'M AFRAID HE'S RIGHT! WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIONS!

I'LL BE BACK WITH A WRIT! -- AND YOU'LL PAY FOR IT IF YOU TOUCH MARLIN AGAIN!



A LITTLE later...

HERE IT IS! MARLIN HAS BEEN PUT IN MY CUSTODY UNTIL A HIGHER COURT DECIDES WHAT TO DO WITH HIM!

AND SO...

NICE, THE WAY YOU BOYS RIGGED THAT ROPE, BUT YOU SHOULD'VE FIXED IT TO BUST SOONER!

WE DONE OUR BEST, BOSS! WE COULDN'T OF DONE WHAT WE DID IF IT HADN'T OF BEEN FOR OUR OWN LEFTY, WHAT'S A TRUSTY IN THE JAILHOUSE!



NATIONAL COMICS

IT'S FUNNY,
BOSS--BUT THE
WARDEN HASN'T
TOLD THE PAPERS!
HE KNOWS THEY'D
GIVE 'IM THE
LAUGH! ONLY A
FEW, INCLUDIN' A
HIGH-COURT JUDGE,
KNOW YOU'RE
ALIVE!

THAT AIN'T
FUNNY! THAT'S
PERFECT!
NOW I CAN
HAVE THE
FIRST-CLASS
REVENGE
I PROMISED
THEM MUGGS!

MIKE, YOU 'N' JEEPERS PULL
SOME JOB --A BURGLARY OR
SUMP'N ...THAT'LL BRING
QUICKSILVER THERE!
... MEANTIME, ME 'N' THE
BOYS'LL PICK UP THE JUDGE
'AN' THE D.A. AND BE DOWN
IT TIME TO PICK UP YOU
AN' QUICK SILVER!

AN' AFTER THEY'VE
GOT WHAT I PROMISED,
THEM TWELVE JURYMEN
COME NEXT!

THAT NIGHT...

OKAY!
NOW WE
DUCK TILL
QUICKSILVER
TOINS UP!

YEAH -- THIS FAKE
ALARM OUGHTA
BRING HIM!
HEH-HEH!

EVER ALERT TO ANY POSSIBILITY OF CRIME,
QUICKSILVER REACHES THE WAREHOUSE
JUST AS THE POLICE ARRIVE!

THIS IS THE
PLACE ... A
FUR STORAGE
COMPANY!

ING-GG-G

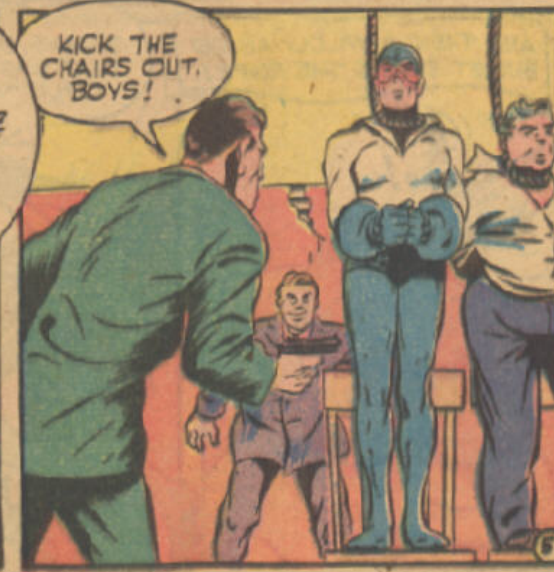
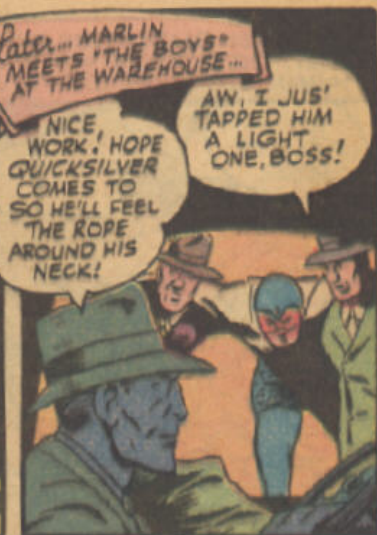
SOMEBODY
BROKE IN, ALL
RIGHT, BUT I
DON'T SEE
ANY ONE.

NOTHING
SEEMS TO HAVE
BEEN STOLEN,
EITHER!

... I'LL BET
DAT FEELS
GOOD, EH,
SMARTY?

GUESS IT WAS A FALSE ALARM! THE WATCHMAN PROBABLY DIDN'T LOCK UP PROPERLY AND THE ALARM WENT OFF BY ACCIDENT!

BAM



BUT, WHEN DEATH SEEMS ONLY SECONDS AWAY, QUICKSILVER MAKES A SUPER-HUMAN ACROBATIC EFFORT!

WIT' PLEASURE, BOSS!

THIS IS A PLEASURE, TOO, MARLIN!

I'VE ALWAYS HEARD IT'S HARDER TO HIT A TARGET IN MOTION ... ESPECIALLY WHEN THE MARKSMEN CAN'T SHOOT STRAIGHT!

DON'T SAY I'VE NEGLECTED YOU!

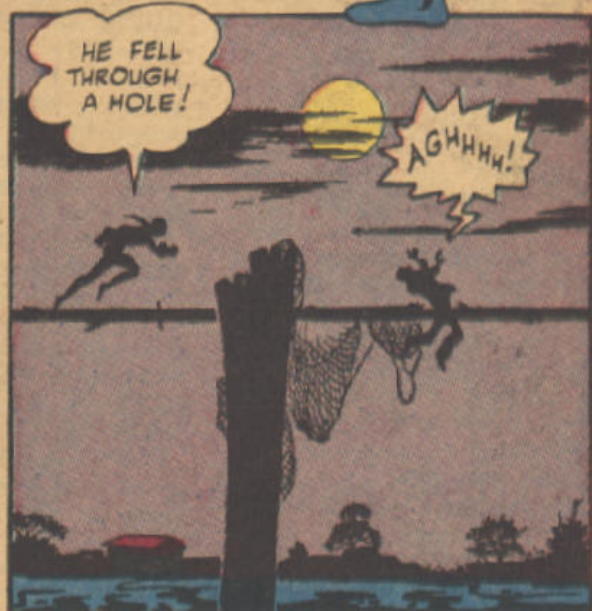
AND THEN A WILDLY AIMED BULLET SEVERS THE ROPE!

THANKS, BUD! THAT WAS MOST OBUGING!

CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR FUN, BOYS!

SNIP!

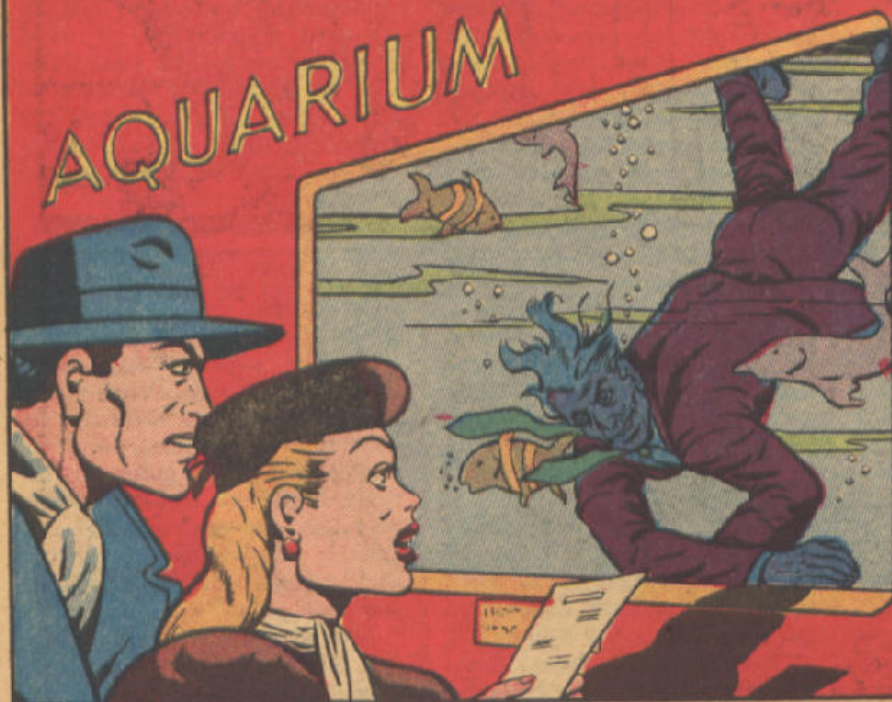




CHIC CARTER

by
VERNON
TIERREL

AQUARIUM



The
Case of
**THE
DROWNED
CORPSE!**

WHAT? YOU HAVE??
OH, BOY!
EEEEOWIEE!

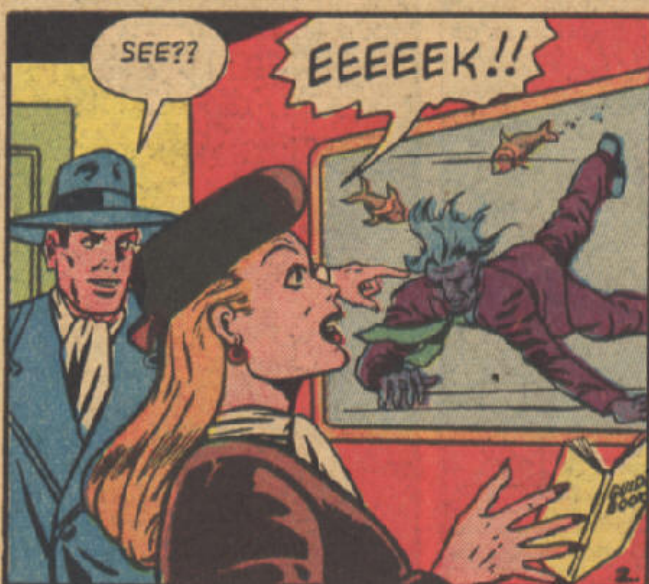


HOT DOG! WAIT'LL
I CALL GAY AND TELL
HER I GOT TWO RING-
SIDE SEATS AT
TONIGHT'S ---



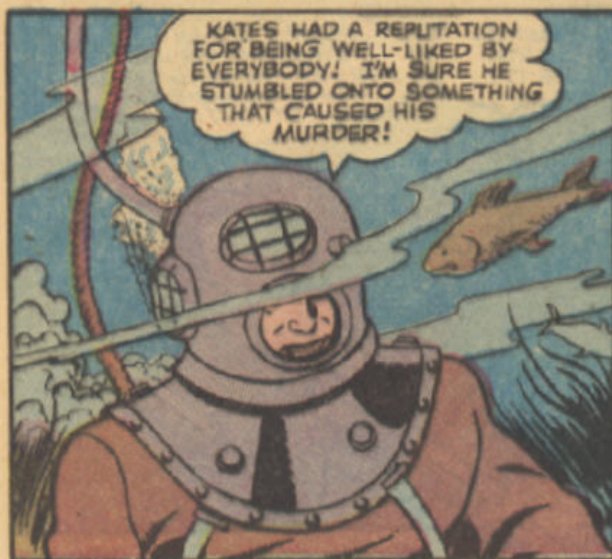
--PRIZEFIGHTS!!







NATIONAL COMICS





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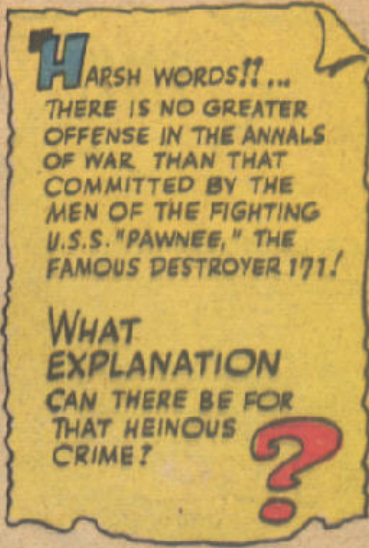
Destroyer 171



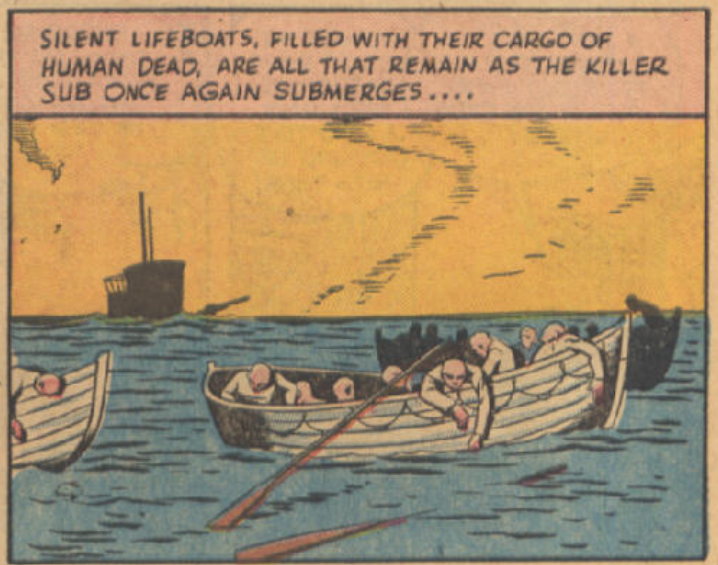
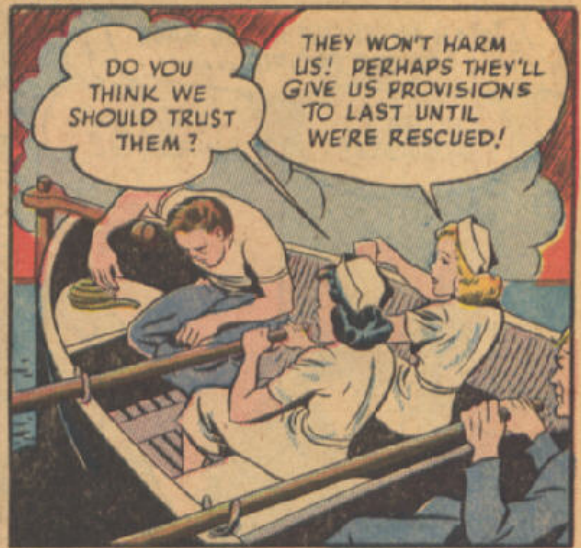
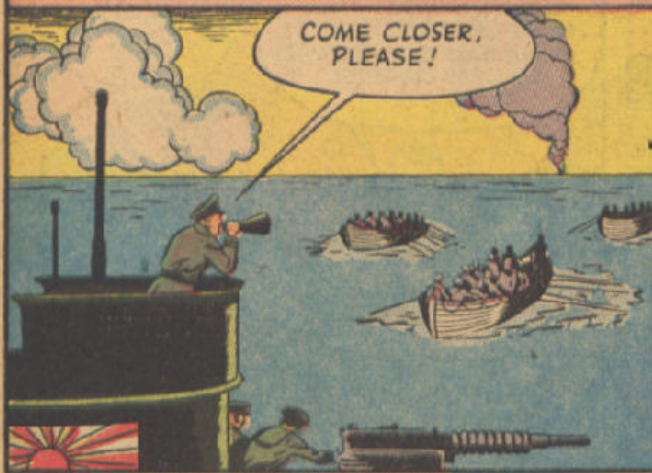
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE ABOVE PICTURE? ... YOU CAN TELL IN A GLANCE! ... DESTROYER 171, THE U.S.S. "PAWNEE," IS FLYING A JAPANESE FLAG!

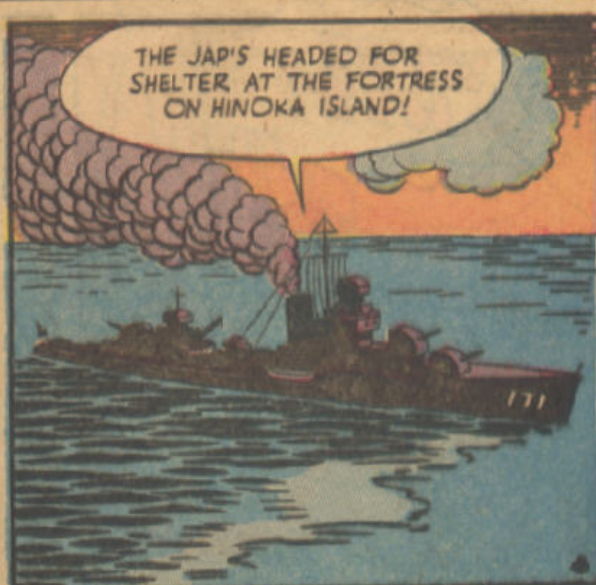
WHAT DOES IT MEAN? EVERYONE KNOWS THAT DESTROYER 171 BOASTS A LONG AND HONORABLE CAREER OF FIGHTING AGAINST THE JAPS! HER CREW AND CAPTAIN ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR STIRRING BATTLES AGAINST THE WILY NIPPONESE!

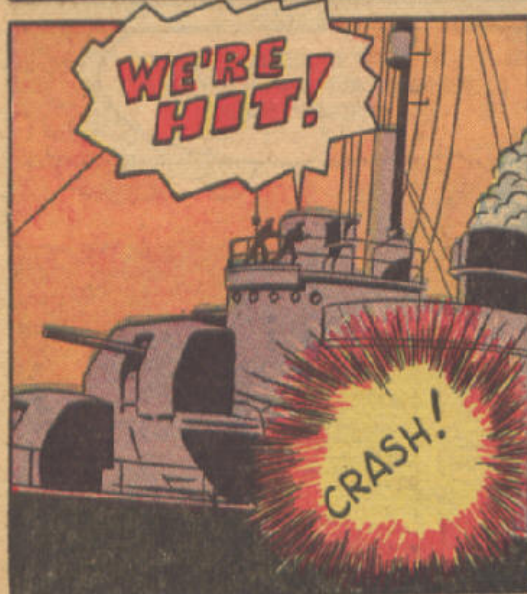
WE CAN'T TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY BEHIND THIS PICTURE ... BUT WE CAN GIVE YOU A HINT! FOR THIS IS THE TALE OF MUTINY ABOARD THE U.S.S. "PAWNEE"! ...



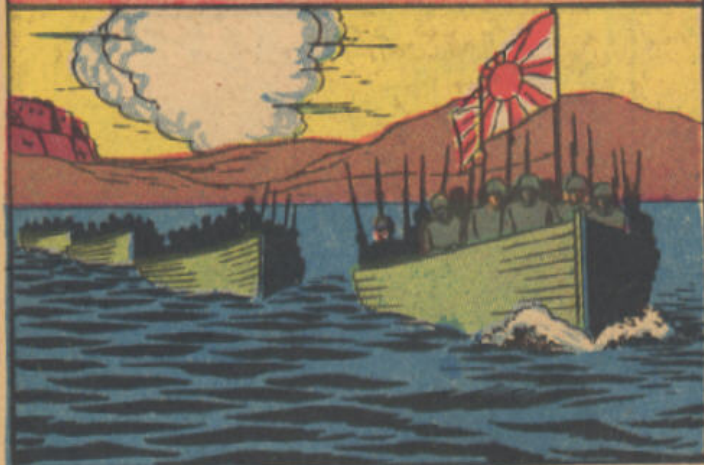
A FEW LIFEBOATS WITH WOUNDED MEN AND NURSES ESCAPE FROM THE FLAMING WRECKAGE...







AS DESTROYER 171 WALLOWS HELPLESSLY IN THE HARBOR, SMALL BOATS PUT OUT FROM SHORE....



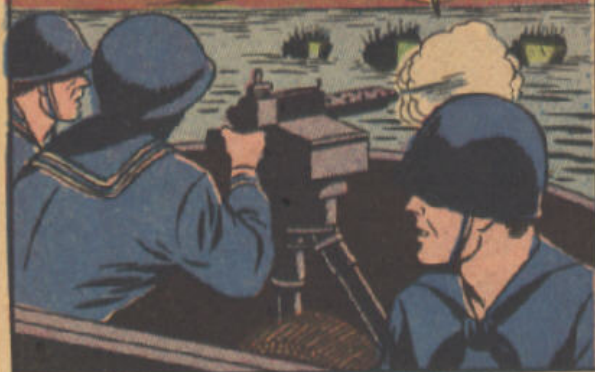
THEY'RE GOING TO BOARD US! PASS OUT SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION!

AYE, AYE, SIR!



HERE THEY COME!

THEY'LL GET A WARM WELCOME!



LIKE MONKEYS, THE JAPS SWARM UP THE SIDES OF THE DESTROYER!



AND THEY ARE MET WITH A HURRICANE OF FIRE WHICH SWEEPS THEM FROM THE DECKS OF THE "PAWNEE"!



GOOD WORK, MEN! WE'VE GOT THEM ON THE RUN!



THEN A PERISCOPE BREAKS THE WATER! THE KILLER SUB EMERGES TO JOIN THE BATTLE!



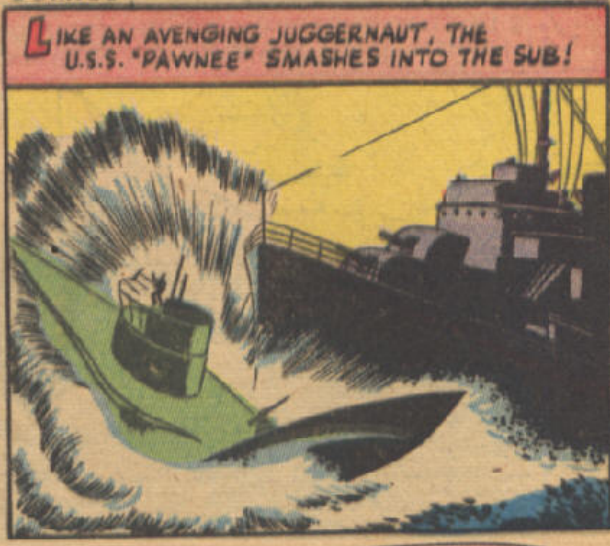


CHIEF ENGINEER
REPORTS STEERING
GEAR READY FOR
ACTION!

WE'LL
RAM
HER!



... FIRE
TORPE ...
AIEEEEEEE!!
... CRASH
DIVE!

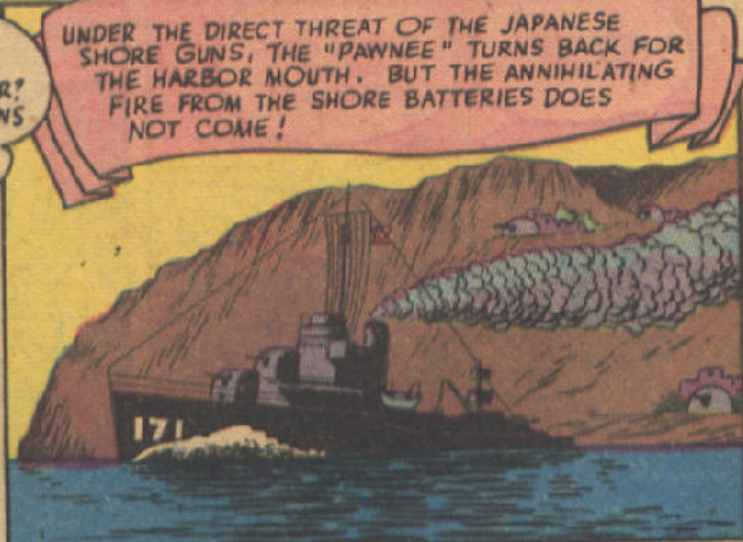


LIKE AN AVENGING JUGGERNAUT, THE
U.S.S. "PAWNEE" SMASHES INTO THE SUB!



THAT EVENS
THE ACCOUNT!
THEY'LL SINK NO MORE
SHIPS OF MERCY! ...
RELEASE COMMANDER
BLAKE AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE!

HOW WILL
WE GET OUT
OF THE HARBOR?
THE SHORE GUNS
HAVE THE
RANGE!



UNDER THE DIRECT THREAT OF THE JAPANESE
SHORE GUNS, THE "PAWNEE" TURNS BACK FOR
THE HARBOR MOUTH. BUT THE ANNIHILATING
FIRE FROM THE SHORE BATTERIES DOES
NOT COME!

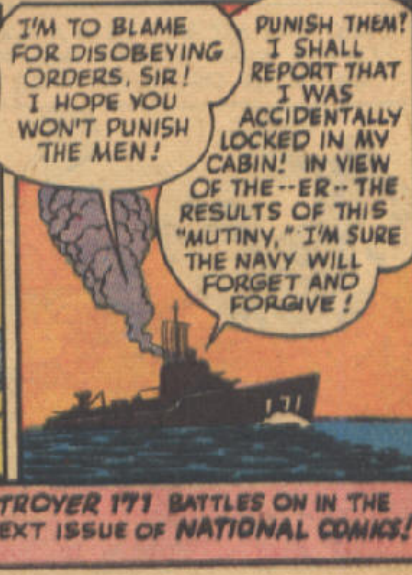


MY APOLOGIES,
COMMANDER
BLAKE! I'M
WILLING TO
ACCEPT THE
CONSEQUENCES!

HOW IN BLAZES
DID YOU GET
OUT OF THE
HARBOR? THOSE
SHORE GUNS
COULD HAVE
BLASTED YOU
TO BROOKLYN!



I HOISTED THE JAP
FLAG TAKEN FROM A
BOARDING PARTY!
THE SHORE OFFICERS
DIDN'T KNOW WHO
WAS IN CONTROL OF
THE SHIP UNTIL IT
WAS TOO LATE!



I'M TO BLAME
FOR DISOBEYING
ORDERS, SIR!
I HOPE YOU
WON'T PUNISH
THE MEN!

PUNISH THEM!
I SHALL
REPORT THAT
I WAS
ACCIDENTALLY
LOCKED IN MY
CABIN! IN VIEW
OF THE--ER-- THE
RESULTS OF THIS
"MUTINY," I'M SURE
THE NAVY WILL
FORGET AND
FORGIVE!

DESTROYER 171 BATTLES ON IN THE
NEXT ISSUE OF NATIONAL COMICS!